

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 SSM-03 /041 W

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R 201010Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0072

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALEXANDRIA 0121

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR

SUBJECT: UNEF LOGISTICS BASE MOVE TO PORT SAID

REF: ALEXANDRIA 0110

1. CONGEN AND CONSULATE SHIPPING OFFICER MET WITH UNEF MOVEMENT CONTROL COMMANDER PAUL WIIS ON FEBRUARY 20 TO ENQUIRE ABOUT FUTURE OPERATIONS OF HIS UNIT (REFTEL). WIIS, WHO IS A SENIOR UN CIVIL SERVANT, STARTED CONVERSATION BY VOLUNTEERING INFORMATION THAT HIS UNIT IS TRANSFERRING ITS OPERATIONS TO PORT SAID AND GRADUALLY PHASING OUT ALL ALEXANDRIA OPERATIONS. HE ESTIMATES THAT SUPPORTING ABOUT 5,000 UNEF PEOPLE ENTAILS SHIPMENT OF ABOUT 450 TONS OF CARGO PER MONTH.

2. UNEF HAS ALREADY ACQUIRED A SUITABLE WAREHOUSE ON THE PORT SAID WATERFRONT AND GOE IS MAKING AVAILABLE A FORMER GOVERNOR'S VILLA ON THE BEACH FOR OFFICES AND QUARTERS.

3. REASON THEY COULD DROP ALEXANDRIA WAREHOUSING AT SUCH SHORT NOTICE IS THAT IN RECENT MONTHS ALMOST ALL ARRIVING CARGOES HAVE BEEN TRUCKED DIRECTLY FROM PORT TO A CAIRO WAREHOUSE. TO REPLACE CAIRO FOR PORT SAID BASED OPERATIONS, UNEF HAS UNSUCCESSFULLY SOUGHT ISMAILIA WAREHOUSE. THEY WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO ERECT A PRE-FAB WAREHOUSE OF THEIR OWN.

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4. WIIS IS STILL AWAITING SPECIFICS ON MATERIEL STILL IN

PIPELINE, BUT HOPES ESSENTIAL ALEXANDRIA OPERATIONS CAN WIND UP BY JUNE 30 OR SOON THEREAFTER.

5. UNEF HAS BEEN USING FOR US-EGYPT RUN, WHICH REPRESENTS SINGLE LARGEST TRAFFIC ROUTE, SAME LINES USG USES: LYKES, PRUDENTIAL AND TORM. WIIS HAD JUST OVERSEEN FIRST PRUDENTIAL LASH ARRIVAL AT PORT SAID AND WAS MOST ENTHUSIASTIC AT SPEED AND EFFICIENCY OF THIS TYPE CARGO-HANDLING TO WATERSIDE WAREHOUSE, CALLING IT "100 PER CENT IMPROVEMENT" ON ALEXANDRIA EXPERIENCE.

6. FYI - WIIS WAS APPARENTLY HANDLING SIMILAR OPERATION AT PORT SAID FOR UNTSO IN JUNE 1967. HE AND HIS UNMO STAFF STAFF MOVED CONSUL SPRINGER AND CONSULATE STAFF "UNDER ARMED ESCORT" TO SAFETY WHEN MOBS ATTACKED CONSULATE ON OPENING DAY OF 1967 ARAB-ISRAEL WAR. CONSUL SURBER WILL FIND WIIS AND HIS CANADIAN UNEF STAFF VERY CONGENIAL AND USEFUL COLLEAGUES. END EYL.  
CHASE

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## Message Attributes

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